

Application Serial No. 10/664,728
Filed September 19, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

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in Part
MSC 2/20/07
1. (Presently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket, the frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers for holding guiding a ball in the pocket and directing the ball along a net, said fingers being spaced along the interior face of the frame and having upper and lower ends;
the frame including a mounting for ~~a~~ the net defining a ball-receiving portion; and
the lower ends of the ball guide fingers, each including a substantially rounded outer surface protruding from the interior face so as to define a shoulder facing the ball-receiving portion.
 2. (Previously presented) The head of claim 1 wherein each of the fingers protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame and include an outer surface which slopes outwardly as the fingers extend between the upper and lower edges of the frame.
 - 3-9. Canceled.
 10. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and the fingers are spaced along the interior face of the frame in the region of the back stop wall.
 11. (Original) The head of claim 1 wherein the frame includes a back stop wall and opposed side walls and the fingers are spaced along the interior frame between the back wall and the end of the respective side walls.

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12-17. Canceled.

18. (Presently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket at one end and a scoop at an opposite end;
the frame including upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting for a net defining a ball-receiving portion;
the head further comprising a plurality of outwardly protruding fingers spaced along the interior face of the frame and extending between the upper and lower edges of the frame in a generally opposed directional relationship thereto; and
each of the fingers having a substantially rounded, outer sloped surface for directing a lacrosse ball into the pocket and a lower shoulder facing the ball-receiving portion for ~~holding~~ guiding the ball in the pocket and directing the ball along the net, between the pocket and the scoop.

19-22. Canceled.

23. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers protrude unitarily outwardly from the interior face of the frame.

24. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the length of the fingers vary along the interior face of the frame.

25. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the frame includes a back wall at one end, a scoop wall at the other end and a pair of side walls therebetween, the fingers extending along the back wall and side walls respectively and the length of the fingers increasing progressively between the back wall and respective side walls and then decreasing progressively along each of the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

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26. (Original) The head of claim 18 wherein the shoulder on each of the fingers is sloped and the slope of the shoulders of successive fingers decreases progressively between the back wall and the respective side walls and then increases progressively along the respective side walls in the direction of the scoop wall.

27. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

28. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are generally part frustoconical in shape.

29. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

30. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers are made of rigid material.

31. (Previously added) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

32. (Previously amended) The head of claim 1 wherein the upper ends of the ball guide fingers are generally flush with the interior face.

33. (Previously added) The head of claim 32 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

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34. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

35. (Previously added) The head of claim 18 wherein the fingers have upper and lower ends, the upper ends being generally flush with the interior face and the lower ends protruding from the interior face.

36. (Previously added) The head of claim 35 wherein the lower ends of the plurality of fingers are spaced apart from one another along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the peripheral outer curve of a ball.

37. (Previously amended) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length.

38. (Previously amended) The head of claim 18 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length.

39. (Presently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket, the frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net that defines a ball-receiving portion;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and
the fingers having outer surfaces facing away from the interior face and defining progressively increasing angles with respect to the interior face, wherein said fingers are for holding guiding a ball in the pocket and directing the ball along a the net.

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40. (Previously added) The head of claim 39 wherein the angle of the fingers increase from a minimum at the back wall to a maximum at the sidewalls.

41. (Previously added) The head of claim 39 wherein the outer surfaces of the fingers are generally part conical in shape.

42. (Previously added) The head of claim 41 wherein the transverse cross sectional areas of the fingers increase from the top edge to the bottom edge.

43. (Presently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket, the frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net that defines a ball-receiving portion;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and
the fingers having outer surfaces facing away from the interior face and end surfaces extending generally perpendicular to the outer surfaces, facing the net, wherein said fingers are for holding guiding a ball in the pocket and directing the ball along a the net.

44. (Previously added) The head of claim 43 wherein the end surfaces have a generally semicircular shape.

45. (Previously added) The head of claim 43 wherein the end surfaces lie along a curve corresponding generally in shape to the outer curve of a lacrosse ball.

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46. (Presently amended) A head of a lacrosse stick comprising:
a frame defining a pocket, the frame including a back wall disposed between a pair of sidewalls, each having upper and lower edges and an interior face therebetween;
the frame including a mounting below the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls for a net defining a ball-receiving portion;
a plurality of elongate ball guide fingers spaced along the interior face of the back wall and the sidewalls, between the upper and the lower edges of the back wall and the sidewalls and extending toward the net; and
the fingers having longitudinal lengths which vary from one finger to another, wherein said fingers are for ~~holding~~ guiding a ball in the pocket and directing the ball along a the net.

47. (Previously added) The head of claim 46 wherein the sidewalls define openings and the fingers extend across the openings.

48. (Newly added) The head of claim 39 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

49. (Newly added) The head of claim 39 wherein the ball guide fingers have upper and lower ends and the upper ends of the ball guide fingers are generally flush with the interior face.

50. (Newly added) The head of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fingers vary in length.

51. (Newly added) The head of claim 43 wherein the ball guide fingers have upper and lower ends and the upper ends of the ball guide fingers are generally flush with the interior face.

52. (Newly added) The head of claim 43 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length.

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~~53. (Newly added) The head of claim 46 wherein the ball guide fingers have upper and lower ends and the upper ends of the ball guide fingers are generally flush with the interior face.~~

~~54. (Newly added) The head of claim 46 wherein the plurality of ball guide fingers have a thickness which varies along their length.~~